

# South Dakota National Guard

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June 19, 2014

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **SD National Guard continues tornado, flood response support**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – About 320 South Dakota National Guard members have now been activated since yesterday to support the state and local emergency management officials with flood response in Union County and tornado recovery operations in Wessington Springs.

About 170 South Dakota National Guard members are currently assisting the community of Wessington Springs after a tornado hit the town Wednesday evening. Gov. Dennis Daugaard activated the National Guard to assist with clean up and recovery efforts.

The National Guard is providing personnel and equipment to assist with checkpoint security, traffic control and debris removal. Additional personnel are also providing command and control, liaison, maintenance, cargo transport and fuel support.

About 147 Guard members are also now on duty to assist in flood response operations in southeast South Dakota with the rise in water levels along the Big Sioux River. The SDNG assisted today with levee construction support at Exit 4 along Interstate 29 and sandbagging operations in the Dakota Dunes area.

“It’s good to help give something back into the community in which you’re in, because at the end of the day, you take this uniform off and you’re going to be going back to communities like this one,” said Spc. Alexander Voisin, of the 200th Engineer Company, who was providing security in Wessington Springs. “It’s good to help your neighbors out and be able to use the training that you get from the military to help your own state.”

Gov. Daugaard declared a state of emergency and opened the State Emergency Operations Center early Tuesday morning. The EOC continues to work with SDNG officials to coordinate appropriate levels of response.

### **FLOODING & TORNADO RESPONSE FACT SHEET**

#### **SD National Guard Flood Support**

##### **In the Dakota Dunes Area, Union County**

The SDNG currently has 147 personnel assigned to Task Force 196 for the flood mission today:

- Personnel conducting sandbagging operations at Dakota Valley Elementary School to protect critical infrastructure and residential areas
- Personnel and 14 dump trucks conducting levee construction support with dirt hauling at Exit 4 along Interstate 29
- Personnel providing command and control, liaison, maintenance, cargo transport and fuel support

The 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion (350 personnel) has been alerted for possible mobilization, if needed.

<u>Units currently involved:</u>	<u>Home Station</u>
Joint Force Headquarters	Rapid City
155th Engineer Company	Rapid City and Wagner
842nd Engineer Company	Spearfish, Sturgis and Belle Fourche
235th Military Police Company	Sioux Falls
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade	Sioux Falls
114th Fighter Wing	Sioux Falls
1742nd Transportation Company	Sioux Falls (rear detachment)
1/147th Field Artillery	Watertown (2 personnel)

<u>Unit in alert status:</u>	<u>Home Station</u>
1/147th Field Artillery Battalion	Watertown, Aberdeen and Yankton

### **SD National Guard Tornado Support**

#### In Wessington Springs area, Jerauld County:

The SDNG has 170 personnel assigned to Task Force 109 for the tornado mission today:

- Personnel providing security and traffic control
- Personnel with dump trucks, loader, hydraulic excavators and cargo transports providing debris removal
- Personnel providing command and control, liaison, maintenance and fuel support

The 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion (350 personnel) has been alerted for possible mobilization, if needed.

<u>Units currently involved:</u>	<u>Home Station</u>
Joint Force Headquarters	Rapid City
109th Regional Support Group	Rapid City
82nd Civil Support Team	Rapid City
Training Center Command	Rapid City
842nd Engineer Company	Spearfish, Sturgis and Belle Fourche
200th Engineer Company	Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge
152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion	Pierre
211th Engineer Company	Madison and De Smet
Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion	Mitchell

<u>Unit in alert status:</u>	
1/147th Field Artillery Battalion	Watertown, Aberdeen and Yankton

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**140619-Z-LN227-315:** Sgt. Lee Weber, a combat engineer with the 211th Engineer Company, talks with Bruce and Gay Stulkem of Miller, S.D., at a security checkpoint in Wessington Springs, S.D., June 19, 2014. About 170 South Dakota National Guard members are currently assisting the community of Wessington Springs after a tornado hit the town Wednesday evening. Gov. Dennis Daugaard activated the National Guard to assist with clean up and recovery efforts. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Mark VanGerpen/RELEASED)



**140619-Z-CW157-001:** Soldiers of the 235th Military Police Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, conduct sandbagging operations at the Dakota Vallery Elementary School in North Sioux City, S.D., June 19, 2014, in response to the rise in water levels along the Big Sioux River. About 147 SDNG members are assisting state and local emergency management officials in flood response operations in southeast South Dakota. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)(RELEASED)

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